

CROP REPORT #17 – August 25, 2020

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[Reporting Area Map](#)

[Seasonal Report](#)

[Crop Weather Report](#)

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest across much of Manitoba has been periodically interrupted by rain showers, resuming two to three days later. High humidity has limited harvesting hours in some parts, with grain dryers operating in the Interlake region.
- Late-season dryness together with high heat has prompted premature ripening in some soybean and corn fields where soil moisture was inadequate.
- Reported wheat yields to date have been average to slightly below average, given stresses faced by all crops this spring. Oats and barley yields are average to above average. Overall harvest is 13% complete.
- The [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) service is available to assist farmers in searching for or making available sources of livestock feed. Greenfeed cereal silage and straw baling is continuing aggressively.

Table 1: Seeded Acreage and Harvest Progress for 2020 Manitoba Field Crops to Date.

| Crop | Seeded Acreage† | 2020 Harvest Progress | 3-year Harvest Progress** |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Winter Wheat* | 30,127 | 88% | 99% |
| Fall Rye* | 103,763 | 90% | 99% |
| Spring Wheat* | 2,990,016 | 23% | 50% |
| Barley* | 395,645 | 38% | 65% |
| Oats* | 668,697 | 17% | 55% |
| Field Pea* | 161,279 | 70% | 94% |
| Canola | 3,459,641 | 2% | 24% |
| Flax* | 50,723 | 0% | 0% |
| Soybean* | 1,129,006 | 0% | 0% |
| Dry Bean | 190,845 | 0% | 0% |
| Sunflower | 92,939 | 0% | 0% |
| Corn (Grain and Silage) | 443,080 | 0% | 0% |
| Potatoes | 56,400 | 0% | 0% |

†MASC Seeded Acreage Report (97% Keyed as of 11-Aug-2020)

*Indicates total acreage of commercial, pedigreed seed and organic seeded acres.

** Harvest Progress as of first week of August 2017-2019 Averages from Manitoba Crop Report.

Southwest Region

Sunny and hot conditions was advantageous to producers to do some harvest start and desiccation activities in different crops but rain on the weekend hindered this for two days. Majority of this rain fell over northern districts, amounting to 40mm and above but southern areas only had light showers that had not significantly affected

harvest progress. Moisture conditions are adequate in most of the region. Melita and area received below normal rainfall this year but crops are generally looking excellent due to the rainfall timing.

Overall harvest in the southwest is less than 5% complete with the majority of the combining done

south of the TransCanada. A few producers have started in northern parts as well, with mostly peas and winter cereals.

Winter wheat and fall rye harvest 70-80% done. Yield reports are average to above average with good quality. Field pea harvest is 50% complete with yields reported

40 to 55 bu/acre range. Quality is also good at appropriate seed moisture content.

Harvest of cereal crops has begun throughout the Southwest starting with barley. About 30% of the barley is harvested and yields range from 80 to 100 bu/acre reported. Most of oat fields also got desiccation done and ready to harvest.

Spring wheat harvest has begun mostly south of the TransCanada Highway with about 5 to 10% of the crop harvested. Yield reported 60 to 70 bu/acre range with 13% protein to date.

Canola is just under a quarter swathed or physiologically mature; some fields will have been desiccated for direct harvest. Late seeded and reseeded canola is also out of flowering now and getting the benefit of hot and dry weather to advance maturity. The majority of the crop looks average to above average other than low spots, which were badly affected by earlier storms and ponding water.

Soybeans growth and maturity is advancing well. Most of the crop is in R6 to R6.5 stage. Some fields, which missed the recent thundershowers now beginning to show moisture stress and prematurely drying down.

Corn cobs are starting to swell at stage R3 to R4. Recent large rains favoring yield developments; however in some areas hot weather is causing moisture stress.

Flax fields are now at ripening and dry down stage of development. There is no major disease issues at this stage. Weeds are visible in some fields. Sunflowers are starting to enter R7 (flowering complete), though some are still in the R6 stage. Blackbirds are starting to show up in many fields.

Another good week for putting up hay and silage. Most producers have completed second cut for now. What is left will be done after harvest after first killing frost. Second cut was average. Cereal silage is about 70% complete with average to above average yields. Rain at the end of last week will keep pastures going. Pastures are rated as good. Dugouts are 70% full. Corn silage continues to look above average.

Northwest Region

High daily temperatures through the week continued to advance the crop quickly in the Northwest region. Thundershowers and widespread rain on the weekend brought a halt to field operations. Amounts in the region ranged from 30 to 55mm through most of the region and upwards of 75mm around Dauphin. Soil moisture is adequate for the most part, although there remain some dry areas around Swan River.

Spring wheat is generally ripe throughout the region with some pre-harvest desiccation underway. There has been a limited start to harvest of the spring wheat crop with less than 5% harvested. The barley in the region is ripening, also with a very limited start to harvest. Oats remain standing and are between hard dough and ripe. Harvest of winter wheat and fall rye is complete in the Roblin area.

The canola crop is podded with the earlier seeded fields turning colour, being desiccated and swathed. Approximately 30% is swathed around Roblin with only about 5% of the canola swathed around Swan River. Fields around Russell are further advanced. There has been a good start to field pea harvest around Swan River, with about 20% of the crop harvested while approximately 50% of the field pea crop around Roblin is harvested.

Yields are rated as good. Flax continues to ripen.

Good hay yields have been reported in the western side of the region where producers were able to harvest the second cut alfalfa prior to the mid-August deadline to respect the [critical fall harvest period](#). Cereal silage and greenfeed harvest continues with average to above average yields. Pea straw is being baled for feed and producers are sourcing alternative feeds where need be to alleviate feed shortage concerns. Grasshoppers continue to be a concern in areas around Ethelbert. Pasture conditions range from poor to good; reflective of management, stocking rates and moisture received. Dugout levels are rated low to adequate with quality a concern where levels are lower.

Central Region

Rain shower activity in the southeast corner of the region on Thursday brought up to 20mm in the Morris to Emerson area. Much of the rest of the region only received 2 to 8 mm. Overall soil moisture conditions are rated as fair for much of the region to good in areas that received higher precipitation in the last couple of weeks. Some post-harvest tillage is starting to occur.

Fall rye harvest is considered done with yields reported in the 80 to 100 bu/ac range. High levels of ergot reported in the Gladstone area. Harvested fields have been harrowed to break up and distribute crop residue. Winter wheat harvest is also wrapped up with yields reported in the 60 to 70 bu/ac range.

Wheat, barley and oats are maturing rapidly to being ripe. Wheat harvest is underway across the region. Areas north and east of the escarpment are more advanced in crop maturity and harvest progress. When mature, many

wheat fields have been treated with a pre-harvest product ahead of direct harvest. Yields reported vary from 50 to 100 bu/ac with grain quality in the top two grades mainly. Some ergot reported in wheat. Many barley fields are swathed or harvested with more looking ripe. Harvest of barley fields continues with early reported yields ranging from 70 to 120 bu/ac and good quality. Most oat fields are ripe and harvest has begun with first reported yields in the 110 to 140 bu/ac range. Cereals are standing up well and maturing quite evenly. Harvest progress is expected to pick up in the coming week, as many fields are mature and ready to be combined. Straw is being baled on many harvested cereal grain fields. Fusarium head blight symptoms are showing up in barley and wheat but the severity appears low. Most cornfields are in the kernel development (R3) to dough (R4) stage. Corn crops are looking well with the reasonable soil moisture and warmer temperatures.

Swathing of canola fields is underway for earliest planted canola fields while pod shatter resistant varieties tend to remain standing for direct harvest. Harvest of canola started with 40 to 50 bu/ac yields reported in the Altona area so far. Harvest of canola is expected to pick up this week. No major insect outbreaks reported. Verticillium wilt symptoms are reported in a good number of canola fields from ongoing disease surveys. The flax crop looks good and standing up well. Sunflowers are finished flowering and progressing into the R6 to R7 stage with seed developing.

Most field peas are mature with some later planted fields still in the beginning to mid-maturity stage. Pre-harvest products were applied to many fields as the crop reaches maturity. Yield reports for the earliest harvested fields fall in the 60

to 80 bu/ac range and of good quality.

Soybean fields are in the beginning seed (R5) to full seed (R6) seed stage. Soybeans in the Carman and Gladstone areas would benefit from more rain. Other parts of the region are rated as fair as soybeans advance in maturity. Some soybeans are in the beginning maturity stage (R7) but most are green or just starting to turn leaf color. Edible beans harvest has begun with some Kidney types already combined with yields reported at 1800lbs/acre.

The potato heat units (P-Days) are around 630 units, slightly higher than normal for this time period. It is peak bulking period. Late blight risk values (DSVs) for 7-day cumulative was moderate to high. No late blight reported in Manitoba, and no late blight spores detected in the six sites of Spore Trapping Network. No early blight spores were detected in Spore Trapping Network; however, early blight has been seen at minor levels.

Second cut alfalfa harvest is still progressing with yields better than last year. Producers need to be cautious cutting during the [critical fall period](#), which is three to four weeks prior to a killing frost as winter injury can occur. Wild hay continues to be cut and baled and cereals are being made into greenfeed and silage.

Water sources on pasture are adequate and most pastures have sufficient forage for grazing but is dependent on rainfall received during the summer. Some producers hauling water due to dugouts drying up. Water quality in many dugouts poor. Grasshoppers hurting overgrazed pastures; small amount of supplemental feeding occurring.

Eastern Region

Since last Tuesday, rainfall accumulations across the Eastern region ranged from zero to over 50mm occurring as isolated thunderstorms and intermittent showers. Most districts in the region received limited rainfall although it was often still enough to interrupt harvest progress. Producers were hoping that rain would hold off so that significant progress in the cereal harvest could be made. Overall, soil moisture conditions on cropland, pastures and hayland were rated as mostly adequate.

Across the region, overall harvest completion was estimated at 15%. Winter wheat harvest was complete. Yield reports ranged from 65 to 80 bu/ac with good quality. Spring wheat harvest was about 25% complete. Yield reports ranged from 60 to 80 bu/ac with good quality. Protein levels were noted as variable ranging from under 11% to over 15%. Oats harvest was about 50% complete with yield reports ranging from 100 to 130 bu/ac with good quality. Some variability in bushel weights was noted. Overall, spring cereal quality was characterized as average so far with no major concerns.

In canola, pre-harvest herbicide applications were ongoing with at least 70% of canola slated for a pre-harvest herbicide sprayed so far. For canola intended for swathing, at least 70% has been swathed so far. A very limited amount of canola had been harvested and canola harvest could ramp up this weekend in some districts if weather allowed. [Late season flea beetle](#) damage to canola pods became a concern last week in some areas and a limited amount of insecticide applications occurred in response. Scouting to monitor flea beetle pod damage continues.

Most soybeans were in the mid to late R6 growth stage with leaf

yellowing/browning observed in some fields. A few fields at the R7 growth stage were noted. Corn growth stage ranged from dough to early dent. Most sunflower fields ranged from the R6 to R7 growth stages. An improvement in the condition of warm season crops, particularly corn and soybeans, resulting from rainfall over the past two weeks was obvious and noted by many. Field pea harvest was complete. Yield reports ranged from 60 to 80 bu/acre with good quality.

Across the Eastern Region, second cut beef hay was about 70% complete with yields ranging from 50% below average to average with good quality. Third cut alfalfa dairy hay harvest was ongoing. Pasture conditions ranged from fair to good but improvements in pasture conditions were being limited by increased grazing pressure. Producers remained concerned about feed supplies for overwintering, making arrangements with grain producers to purchase straw. Baling of straw was ongoing. Livestock water supply was adequate for those using wells, able to pump from rivers or in areas that received higher rainfall accumulations that allowed dugouts to refill. Dugouts in lower rainfall areas saw limited improvement and ranged from almost empty to 50% full.

Interlake Region

Harvest is ramping up again, after a 2 to 3 day rain delay on Friday/Saturday. Combines start rolling late in the afternoon due to heavy dews. Some are able to go later in the night; others are shut down by dusk. Grain dryers are going, to extend the daily harvest window. Precipitation continues to be extremely variable with scattered thundershowers. All stations received 10 mm or more; a number of producers report 50mm to as

much as 85mm in areas including Warren, Grosse Isle, Sandy Hook/Winnipeg Beach, and Arborg. Many were back to harvesting after the weekend. Areas receiving up to 75mm, their first significant rain in some time, report similar delays of 2 or 3 days.

Crops have continued to advance quickly. Temperatures again reached up to 30°C+ last week, with average temperatures hitting 20°C to 21.5°C. While most crops are past benefiting from rain, it will aid fill in later maturing crops, as well as help replenish hay land and pasture, especially in the northern part of the region. Much of the region continues to register less than 70 to 80% of normal rainfall amounts.

Crop yields are variable; higher yields are the result of an earlier extra rain or two.

Crops have continued to look better than rainfall amounts would indicate, but premature ripening is noticeable, especially on lighter textured soils. Drought stress symptoms in soybeans and corn have been relieved by the rains. Early maturing soybeans are starting to turn, with some leaf drop. Cereals are changing rapidly, with drydown applications and swathings ongoing. Winter wheat yields reported to date in the 50 to 65 bu/ac range, with significant stresses last fall and this spring. Barley harvest is advancing well, with yields to date ranging from 60 to 110 bu/ac. Spring wheat harvest continues; yields reported in the 45 to 95 bu/ac range, with average yield currently estimated at 55 to 65 bu/ac. Quality is good. Proteins range from 12.9 to 14.5%, dependent on yield. Early oat harvest at 90 to 130 bu/ac, with some as high as 150 to 160 bu/ac. Some oats are reported as light; swathings continue but many were able to straight cut. Cereal harvest

is estimated as 33 to 50% complete, with individuals reporting as much as 80 to 90% complete.

Straw is being baled immediately following cereal harvest; yield is better than recent years. Pea residue is also being baled, an additional feed source for cattle.

The majority of the forage grass seed harvest is complete. Yields are reported as poor to average, from 50 to 400 lbs/ac. Trefoil harvest continues, also poor to average, ranging from 100 to 600 lbs/ac. The June frost seems to have affected yields of perennial crops. Flowering in alfalfa seed fields is complete.

Most peas are harvested, earlier than anticipated due to dry conditions. Yields have been good, ranging from 45 to 85 bu/ac. An average of 55 to 65 bu/ac is expected. Sunflowers are at full bloom, ranging from R5.5 to R6.

Most of the intended canola swathings is complete, and as much as 75% of pre-harvest application is done. Early harvest reports in the 30 to 35 bu/ac range; harvest will be more general by the weekend, weather permitting. Agronomists report aborted pods due to heat and drought stress. Some seed is small and will be lost at harvest. Flax is maturing and changing colour; desiccation is getting started. Soybeans have seen tremendous growth with heat and moisture. Most fields are R5 to R6. Drought stress symptoms are more evident, especially on lighter textured soils, and premature ripening is becoming more common. In the driest areas, short season varieties are shutting down; rain has helped later maturing varieties.

Grain and silage corn have grown significantly in the last month. Fill will likely be impacted by lack of precipitation, although cob size is good. In the north part of the region,



higher silage yields are expected in eastern areas.

Grasshoppers continue to be a nuisance, and are moving as crops are harvested. No reports of soybean aphids. Some high flea beetle numbers reported on volunteer canola, and on late crops.

Increased acres of greenfeed oats, millet and cereal mixes were seeded. Cutting and baling continues. Yields are expected to be good, and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Early rains in some areas of the northeastern and southwestern parts of the region have resulted in very good hay yields. The recent rain has made some more hopeful of a second cut, but many fields do not have enough growth to warrant cutting, particularly older stands.

Rains have improved pastures, allowing them to hang on. Cumulative effects of successive dry years are taking a toll. Native hay yields have been poor; sloughs are dry for the most part. First cut hay is done. Although better than last year in many cases, yields will be below average for most. Well-fertilized fields have fared better. Fields cut in the last month are seeing little to no regrowth in many areas due to lack of rain; second cut beef and third cut hay will be limited. Forage shortages are expected. Livestock water is adequate for most. A few isolated reports of water being hauled.